

Select originating cluster

Policy Transmittal

Belit Stockfleth

Authorized Signature

Number: SS-PT-08-027
Issue Date: 09/16/2008

Topic: Food Benefits

Transmitting (check the box that best applies):

- New Policy
 Policy Change
 Policy Clarification
 Executive Letter
 Administrative Rule
 Manual Update
 Other: Hurricanes Gustav and Ike

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): |

Policy/Rule Title:	Hurricanes Gustav and Ike Evacuees		
Policy/Rule Number(s):		Release No:	
Effective Date:	Immediately	Expiration:	
References:			
Web Address:			

Discussion/Interpretation: In early September Hurricane Gustav hit the Gulf Coast region of Louisiana, and 10 days later Hurricane Ike hit the Gulf Coasts of Louisiana and Texas. The damage from these hurricanes has caused some people to evacuate to other states. Some of these evacuees may be applying in Oregon offices.

Those evacuees who have open food stamp cases in the state of Louisiana are not eligible for benefits in Oregon. Louisiana issued all September benefits to those who had open cases. In addition, a supplement was issued to all open food stamp cases in Louisiana. This supplement raised the benefit level from their regular allotment amount up to the maximum monthly benefit for their household. If the evacuee has lost their card, they can call 1-888-997-1117 (press #1) to have their card replaced. These individuals are being told by their state not to apply for disaster food stamp benefits.

Those evacuees who have open food stamp cases in the state of Texas are also not eligible for benefits in Oregon. Texas issued all September benefits to those who had

open cases. In addition, a supplement was issued to all open food stamp cases in Texas. This supplement raised the benefit level from their regular allotment amount to 70 percent of the maximum monthly benefit to those households not already receiving the maximum. If the evacuee has lost their card they can call the Lone Star Help Desk at 1-800-777-7328 for help with replacement.

Through October 31, when determining eligibility for those who do not already have open food stamp cases in Louisiana and Texas, certify the applicant and his and her family separately from anyone they are living with even if they are purchasing and preparing meals with the other group. If a larger household split up due to the devastation, each half may be certified for food stamps separately from the other.

Oregon has elected to serve evacuees through the expedited process under the following special conditions:

1. They can apply anytime using the current expedited criteria.
2. Applicants identifying themselves as evacuees from Louisiana due to Hurricane Gustav or Ike, or from Texas due to Hurricane Ike will be considered to have met the criteria for expedited services. Narrate their statement.
3. Have the client complete the regular application. Benefits for the initial month will be pro-rated based on the filing date.
4. The state will need to check for duplicate benefit issuance by looking at both the Oregon state records and contacting either the state of Louisiana (FAX number 1-225-342-6996) or Texas (1-877-787-8999). If response from Louisiana will be delayed, narrate contact and add to pended items.
5. All verification can be pended except for identity, including confirmation from Louisiana.
6. If determined eligible, certify through October 31, 2008. To continue receiving beyond this date, the evacuee will need to provide any required pended information.
7. Code the Louisiana evacuee cases from Hurricane Gustav with a HH type of GRL. Code the Louisiana evacuee cases from Hurricane Ike with a HH type of IRL and those from Texas evacuating from Hurricane Ike with a HH type of IRT. This coding will allow the state to track these cases, as FNS will require a follow up report.
8. Evacuees are OFSET exempt. Code with work registration L.

A direct link to the *Medical, ERDC and TANF for Families Evacuating from Hurricane Gustav Emergency Considerations* attachment is:

http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/selfsufficiency/publications/ss-pt-08-027_attach.pdf

Implementation/Transition Instructions: Effective immediately: accept an application for any evacuee not currently receiving food stamps and determine if they qualify.

Training/Communication Plan: None

Local/Branch Action Required: Share this information with all staff, and provide the training.

Central Office Action Required: Provide follow-up information and technical support through questions and answers.

Field/Stakeholder review: Yes No

If yes, reviewed by:

Filing Instructions: None

If you have any questions about this policy, contact:

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